



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CASTILLEJA COVILLEANA **COVILLE INDIAN PAINTBRUSH**

Coville Indian Paintbrush is a perennial with clusters of several unbranched, erect or ascending stems that are up to 30 cm tall. All leaves but the lowermost are deeply divided into 3-7 spreading, linear lobes, and are alternate on the stem. Foliage is covered with long, soft hairs. The inflorescence is usually bright red or scarlet, but may be orange or even pale yellow; it is short and compact at first, but elongates greatly at maturity. The colored flower bracts are deeply 5-7 parted and at least as long as the flowers. The corolla is 20-35 mm long, and the hooded upper lip is $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the tubular portion. The calyx is 15-25 mm long and more deeply divided above than below. Flowering late June-early August.

Distinguished from other red species of *CASTILLEJA* in our area by the covering of long, soft hairs rather than stiff and straight, and by the middle leaf segments that are almost as narrow as the lateral segments. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.